

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission



Arizona Youth Survey 2006 Underage Drinking Fact Sheet

Our mission is to sustain and enhance the coordination, cohesiveness, productivity and effectiveness of the criminal justice system in Arizona

April 2007

The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC), in collaboration with the Governor's Office, the Department of Education, the Department of Health Services, and the Office of Problem Gambling, conducted the 2006 Arizona Youth Survey to assess the frequency of risky behavior among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in Arizona. The 2006 survey consists of data from 362 schools and 60,401 students representing all 15 counties.

The rate of underage drinking is of great concern to the state of Arizona. In 2004, Arizona received a Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant to provide funding to communities to identify and address the impact of substance abuse. Underage drinking was identified as a problem area to which the state would focus its efforts. The State Agency Underage Drinking Prevention Committee was developed to coordinate state and local efforts to reduce underage drinking in Arizona. This fact sheet provides an overview of Arizona Youth Survey data related to alcohol use.

Table 1: Percentage of Arizona Students Reporting Using Alcohol

	2002	2004	2006
Lifetime Use			
8 th Grade	56.5	51.9	50.4
10 th Grade	74.3	69.3	67.6
12 th Grade	81.3	77.9	74.5
Total	71.5	63.3	61.7
30-Day Use			
8 th Grade	33.8	25.3	24.1
10 th Grade	47.9	41.3	39.2
12 th Grade	57.2	51.1	47
Total	47	36.3	34.4
Binge Drinking			
8 th Grade	14.3	16	13.4
10 th Grade	26.2	25.1	22.4
12 th Grade	31.9	32.5	28.2
Total	24.7	22.7	19.9

Frequency of 8th, 10th, and 12th Graders' Alcohol Use

Table 1 describes the frequency of alcohol use reported by 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in 2002, 2004, and 2006. The survey captured three measures of alcohol use: lifetime use, use in the past 30 days, and binge drinking (drinking five or more drinks within a couple of hours in the past two weeks). As seen in the table, use in all three categories and all grades have decreased since 2002.

Table 2 shows the frequency of the three types of alcohol use for each county in Arizona. Many rural counties show higher rates of use in all three categories. For example, Santa Cruz, Mohave, and Greenlee counties have the highest alcohol use in the state.

Chart 1 below shows the differences in alcohol use by males and females in 2002, 2004, and 2006. While males and females have very similar rates of alcohol use, the data shows that females are slightly more likely to use alcohol in their lifetime and within the past 30 days, while males are slightly more likely to participate in binge drinking.

Table 2: Percentage of Students Using Alcohol by County

County	Lifetime Use	30-Day Use	Binge Drinking
Apache	54.2	28.8	19.9
Cochise	59.9	30	15
Coconino	64.9	35.9	21.7
Gila	69.2	40.7	24.5
Graham	58.9	34.6	24
Greenlee	73	46.3	29.8
La Paz	61.7	34.8	20.3
Maricopa	59.2	32.3	18.2
Mohave	73.5	44.7	28.1
Navajo	57.2	30.2	19.2
Pima	67.4	39.1	22.1
Pinal	65	37.2	21.1
Santa Cruz	74.6	48.4	32.4
Yavapai	68.9	41.3	25.2
Yuma	59	31.9	19.2

Chart 1: Percentage of Students Reporting Alcohol Use by Gender

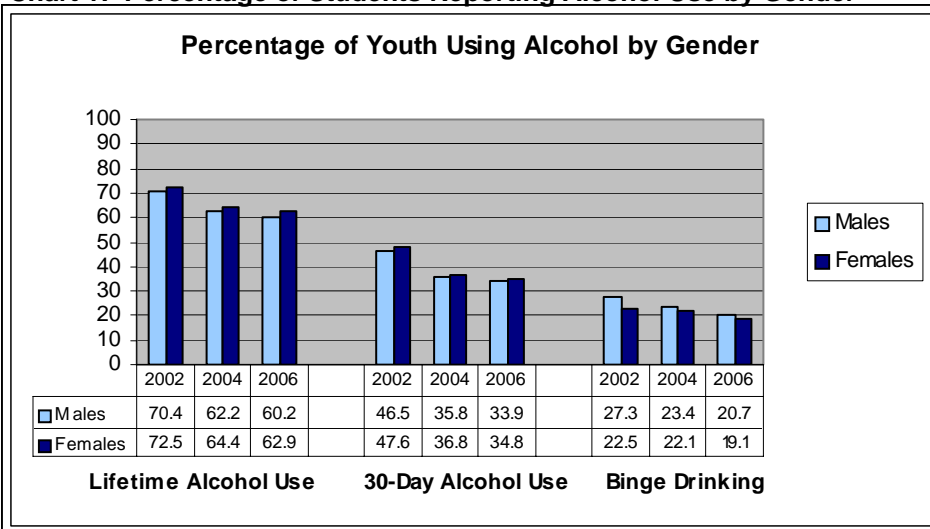


Table 3: Percentage of Students Who Believe There Is a Moderate or Great Risk of Drinking 1-2 Alcoholic Drinks Nearly Every Day

	2002	2004	2006
8 th Grade	65.5	59.1	59.4
10 th Grade	68.6	63.5	65.2
12 th Grade	71.2	65.3	67.7
Total	68.6	61.9	63.3

The data presented in Table 3 shows that more than half of the youth surveyed in 2002, 2004, and 2006 believe that there is a moderate to great risk in drinking alcohol every day. In all three administrations, the percentage of students who believed there was a risk increased as grade increased. While perception of risk increases with grade in all administrations, a decrease in perception of risk can be seen from 2002 to 2006.

Table 4: Percentage of Youth Reporting Alcohol is Very Easy or Sort of Easy to Get

	2002	2004	2006
8 th Grade	42.9	51.6	51.4
10 th Grade	67.4	73.4	70.5
12 th Grade	81.1	80.9	77.9
Total	69.6	65.4	64.2

An area of concern regarding underage drinking is how youth are getting access to alcohol. Unfortunately, the Arizona Youth Survey does not ask how youth who have drank alcohol obtained the alcohol. However, the youth were asked if they wanted to get alcohol, how easy they thought it would be to get. In 2002, nearly 70% of the respondents felt that alcohol would be very easy or sort of easy to get if they wanted some. This number has since decreased to 64% of youth reporting that it would be very easy or sort of easy to get in 2006. Across the years, the percentage of respondents who felt it would be very easy or sort of easy to get increases as grade increases.

Table 5 presents data from the survey question asking, "How wrong do your parents feel it would be for YOU to drink beer, wine, or hard liquor regularly?" Overall, the majority of youth report that their parents would think it is very wrong or wrong to use alcohol. In the 2006 survey, 89.3% of 8th graders and 76.8% of 12th graders reported that their parents would think it is very wrong or wrong to use alcohol. Interestingly, the percentage of 10th and 12th graders who perceive their parents to believe it is very wrong or wrong to use alcohol has increased over the past three administrations of the survey, while the percentage of 8th graders has decreased.

Table 5: Percentage of Students with Perceptions that Their Parents Think it Is Very Wrong or Wrong to Use Alcohol

	2002	2004	2006
8 th Grade	91.7	89.9	89.3
10 th Grade	82	83.9	84
12 th Grade	73.4	74	76.8
Total	81.6	84.1	84.3

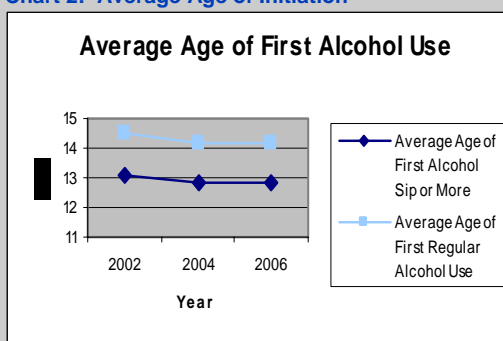
Table 6 presents data on anti-social behavior by past 30-day alcohol use. The data shows that youth who report using alcohol in the 30 days prior to taking the survey were much more likely to participate in anti-social behavior than those students who have not used alcohol in the 30 days prior to taking the survey.

Table 6: Percentage of Students Reporting Anti-social Behavior in the Past 12 Months by Use in the 30-days Prior to Taking the Survey

	Has Used	No Use
Suspended from School	23.3	11.3
Stolen a Vehicle	8.4	1.8
Been Arrested	16.1	4.1
Attacked to Harm	27	10.4
Carried a Handgun	12.5	4.4
Handgun to School	2.9	0.6
Drunk or High at School	39.5	5.9

Age of Initiation

Chart 2: Average Age of Initiation



The average age of initiation for both the first alcohol sip or more and the first regular use have shown the same trend over the past three administrations of the Arizona Youth Survey. From 2002 to 2004, the age of initiation decreased; but there has been no change from 2004 to 2006.

Drinking and Driving

In the 2006 Arizona Youth Survey, two questions were added regarding drinking and driving. The first question asked was, "During the past 30 days, how many times did you RIDE in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol?" Of all respondents, 31.9% reported having done so one or more times in the past 30 days. The second question asked was, "During the past 30 days, how many times did you DRIVE a car or other vehicle when you had been drinking?" Of the respondents 16 years or older, 68.5% reported that they had driven a vehicle after they had been drinking.

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